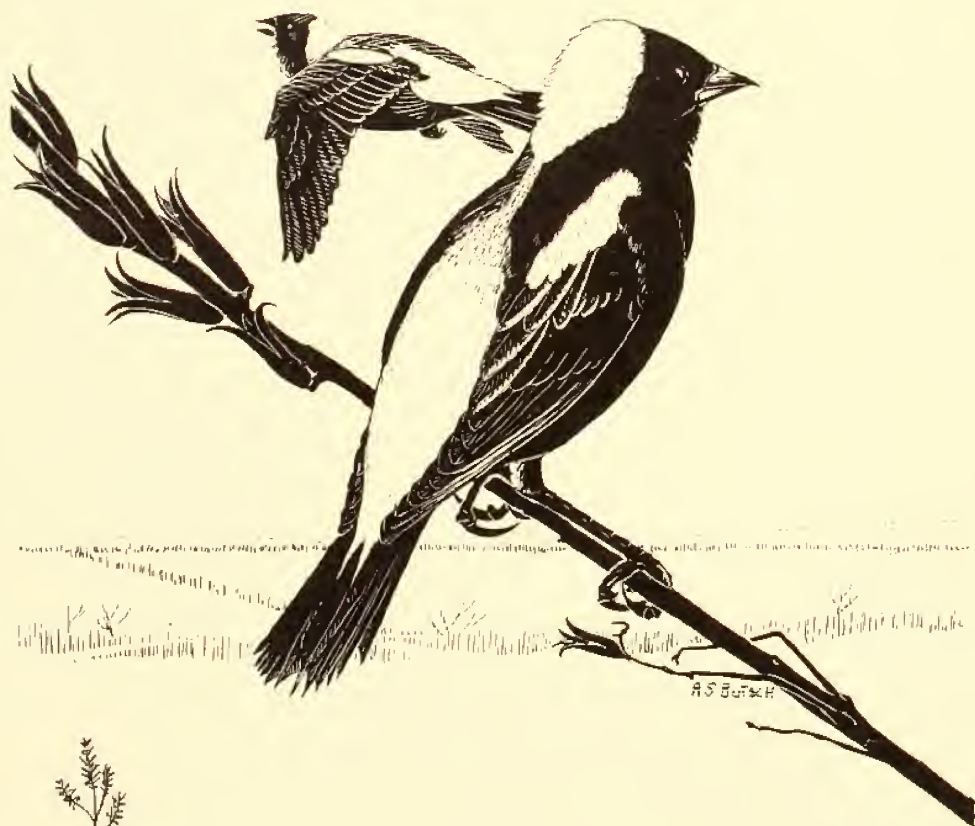


IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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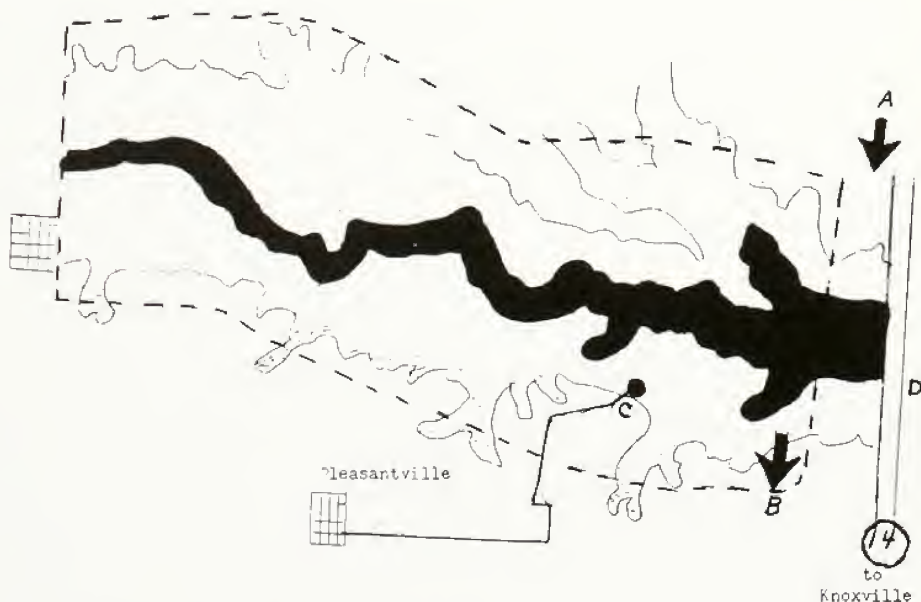
Turkey Vulture Migration at Red Rock

GLADYS B. BLACK
608 DeWitt Street,
PLEASANTVILLE, IOWA

It was my privilege to observe a spectacular Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) migration at Red Rock Refuge, with 419 counted on eleven days between September 26 and October 20, 1968. The Red Rock Refuge on Red Rock Lake is an Iowa State Conservation Commission waterfowl management area covering roughly that area of the lake and shore from Mile Long Bridge on Highway 14 upstream eight miles to Swan, Iowa; about 16,000 acres (Figure 1). The capable young manager, John Beamer, succeeded in attracting hundreds of Canada, Blue, and Snow Geese and thousands of ducks during the 1968 fall migration, a substantial increase over 1967. The Refuge is closed to visitors during spring and fall migrations so all observations must be made from the perimeter.

My observations with 20x Balscope and 7x50 binoculars were made from the Refuge Headquarters (7½ miles northeast of Pleasantville) located on a high bluff on the south side of the lake and about three miles west of Mile Long Bridge. The vultures did not fly down the river valley. They first appeared very high over the

FIGURE 1
Red Rock Refuge



- Refuge area, A. First sight of Vultures,
- B. Roost trees.
- C. Refuge Headquarters.
- D. Mile long Bridge.

FIGURE II

OBSERVATIONS AT RED ROCK REFUGE

Date	September										TOTAL
	26	29	6	7	10	14	15	16	18	19	20
Turkey Vulture											
Red-tailed Hawk		31	21	34	60	40	99	62	36	8	2
		1						1		1	1
Sparrow Hawk					5		1				
Hawk sp.	6		2	3	2						
Wind	12NW	7NE	7NW	10SE	13SE	18SW	31SW	15S	14SW	6NW	7SW
barometric pressure	29.03	29.25	28.81	28.85	29.12	28.87	28.79	28.70	28.82	28.95	29.07
Temperature F.	73	67	64	68	66	84	84	77	54	61	67
Sky	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Sun	Hazy	Cloudy	Sun	Sun
C.D.T. pm.	3:00	3:30	2:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	2:00	3:00	2:00	3:00	3:00
	4:30	4:30	3:00	4:00	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:10	4:00	4:00	5:00

FIGURE III

TURKEY VULTURE TOTALS AT DULUTH FLYWAY - 14 YEARS

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1968
No. seen	12	20	36	36	56	26	123	1	84	281	62	26	798

bluffs at the north end of Mile Long Bridge, circling and losing altitude, finally settling in the roost trees on the south side of the flood plain just west of the bridge. Considerable timber was left standing on the slightly elevated portions of the flood plain. How much of it will be killed as the lake fills is unknown.

I recorded data on the number of Vultures and hawks, wind direction and speed, temperature, sky, and barometric pressure. The distance was too great to make positive identification of all the hawks with the 20x scope. I soon abandoned morning and noon observations as almost totally unproductive. The prime observation time was 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. C.D.T. (Figure II). I regret that I did not make daily observation but I was involved with a student in tagging 1715 butterflies, mostly Monarchs. In the upland Red Clover fields we saw one to three vultures daily. I saw many migrating in Missouri and Arkansas while on a trip from September 15 thru 21.

A review of the Duluth Flyway records revealed only two relatively high Vulture counts: 123 in 1958 and 281 in 1961 (*Wilson Bulletin* 78:32) until 1968. In a letter to this writer P. B. Hofslund stated "We have never had a flight such as we recorded this past fall, when on September 26, 657 Turkey Vultures were recorded during an eight hour observation period. There were 798 individuals counted during the 1968 season and as you can see, this was a larger total than the first thirteen years of the count." (Figure III).

It might be productive to have observers at the Refuge and Red Rock dam overlook as well as Saylorville and Rathbun during the spring and fall migrations at least for a few years.



MRS. M. K. HALLBERG
4 Rock Bluff Road
OTTUMWA, IOWA

On Friday evening May 16th, Iowa ornithologists gathered together at Vacation Village, West Okoboji Lake to renew old friendships and meet new members. At 7:30 President Robert Nickolson opened the meeting with a welcome to Vacation Village. He introduced the Vice President Jean Vane who took charge of the program. Mrs. Harold Witmus from Lincoln, Nebraska, entertained us with a most interesting collection of slides entitled "Birds of the Midwest". These slides were taken during their birding trips the last three years. President Nickolson announced a letter received from Margaret Jones of Dover, Arkansas. It was placed on the table for friends to read. Three cards for field trips Sunday morning were also placed on the table for members to sign. Coffee and cookies were served after the program and the members visited and enjoyed the books of ornithological and natural history on display throughout the weekend by the Pierce Book Company of Winthrop, Iowa.

On Saturday morning May 17th, President Robert Nickolson welcomed the group to Vacation Village. The first meeting in this area of the I.O.U. was thirty years ago with 113 persons registered and 138 species of birds seen.

Jean Vane, Vice President, introduced Milbert Krohn of Spirit Lake - native Iowan and teacher of Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences at Lake Side High School, Spirit Lake. Mr. Krohn gave a very informative talk on the history of the geological formation of the area. The topography of the land was formed by the activity of the glaciers sweeping down from the north, forming the lakes and depositing glacial drift. The result being beautiful lakes serving as a refuge for nesting birds and as a fly way for migrating birds.

Mrs. Darrell Hanna is a dedicated conservationist and has given much of her time and effort to the study of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides and their devastating effects on the future of all life. Mrs. Hanna was successful in presenting to her city council in Sioux City the detrimental effects of pesticides being used today. Her paper "Man Versus Birds" adds to the theory man is the greatest predator of all.

The last speaker of the morning Jean Vane introduced was her husband, Dr. Robert Vane, who entertained the group with his film "Song Bird of Prey". It was a most interesting picture of the nesting and feeding habits of the Loggerhead Shrike.

After lunch David Trauger of Ames presented slides and graphs of the "Breeding Birds of the West Mirage Islands of Great Slave Lake". This was research done for his PhD.

Robert Bergman, also of Ames and working on his master's degree, gave "A Comparative Study of Forsters and Black Terns". This was an informative study of their clutch size, incubation periods and nesting sites.

The next speaker was Henry Kyllingstad from Marshall, Minnesota, who spent four years in Cairo, Egypt, with UNESCO and now is with Southwest Minnesota University in Marshall teaching biology. Mr. Kyllingstad showed a most interesting film of "The Tundra Birds of Western Alaska". While searching for the nest of the Surf Bird he was able to collect a breeding pair. He was first to discover the nest of the Bristle-thighed Curlew.

BUSINESS MEETING

3:00 P.M. Saturday, May 17th, 1969

President Robert Nickolson called the 1st session of the business meeting to order. Blossom Hallberg read the minutes of the business meeting held May 11, 1968. The minutes were corrected and approved.

Woodward H. Brown, Treasurer read the financial report and it was accepted as read. Mr. Brown reported the deficit in the treasury occurred because of the increase in the cost of **Iowa Bird Life**, new check lists were printed and new postal cards printed for annual dues.

Everett Alton moved we increase our membership dues and library subscription beginning January 1st, 1970.

Peter C. Petersen Jr., editor of **Iowa Bird Life** reported an increase in price of publication of 25 percent so that we should strive to increase our membership. He suggested one way by contacting people mentioned in articles about birds in newspapers. He suggested upgrading our own memberships from regular to contributing or supporting.

Frances Crouter, Librarian, reported the library is still in the work space in the Museum of the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

Dr. Robert Vane, Chairman for the new field check lists, reported they are in the hands of the Treasurer, Woodward Brown, and are for sale at 5 cents each.

The President appointed the Resolution Committee, composing of Wayne Partridge, Chairman, Charles C. Ayres, Jr., and Darrell Hanna. He also appointed

the Auditing Committee composed of M. K. Hallberg, Chairman, Darleen Ayres and Phyllis Nickolson.

The President reported the death of our very active member, Albert Berkowitz. He instructed the secretary to send a card of sympathy to Mrs. Berkowitz, signed by the members of I.O.U.

Fred Pierce, a charter member of I.O.U., stated that he attended his first meeting in 1925 at Ames and was a charter member at the age of 25. He also reported that Mr. Wolden of Estherville, who recently passed away, was a charter member and his wife was present. Mrs. Wolden was then introduced to the members. Mrs. Mary Roberts from Goleta, California was also introduced to the members. She is a long time member and also the wife of a charter member.

Dr. Robert Vane expressed a sincere thank you to Fred Pierce for his fine book display that the members were enjoying in the Club House and also for the many things he has done for I.O.U.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

After the Banquet Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis, presented the film "Migration Mysteries". Many migration travels have not been solved, but the flight of the bird is a very remarkable ability. Both the speed and height that some fly is unbelievable.

Sunday A.M.

After a 5:30 breakfast the members joined in the field trips led by: Mr. Milbert Krohn of Spirit Lake to Archer Woods and Pleasant Lake, Mrs. B. A. LaDoux of Spirit Lake to Jimmerson Slough, Diamond Lake and Kittleson Hogs Back and Mrs. J. B. Osher of Estherville to YMCA Woods, Prairie Lake, Pot Holes and Lower Lake.

Final Business Meeting

After lunch the President called the final meeting to order. M. K. Hallberg reported the records of the Treasurer in order.

Wayne Partridge read the report of the Resolution Committee.

The Nominating Committee reported the following names for nomination

Pres. Robert Nickolson
V.P. Joseph Brown
Sec. Mrs. M. K. Hallberg
Treas. Woodward H. Brown
Editor Peter Petersen Jr.

Executive Council:

Mrs. Russell Nicholson
Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr.
Keith Layton
Myra Willis

Dr. Myrle Burke moved the ballot be accepted as read. It was seconded and motion carried.

Note: Recent word from President Nickolson indicates the Fall meeting will be September 20-21 at Shenandoah, ed.

Compilation of species was made by Charles C. Ayres, Jr. - Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite,

Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Foster's Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-throat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow. 149 Species Sunday. Saturday only, Acadian Flycatcher and Cliff Swallow.

It was moved and seconded we adjourn.

AMES: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bergman, John Faaborg, David Trauger

CEDAR FALLS: Mrs. L. Collins, Frances Crouter, Mrs. Mabelle Hinkley, Mr. and Mrs. Orin Paine, Mrs. C. S. Schwanke, Maxine Schwankee, and Mrs. K. A. Velie.

CEDAR RAPIDS: J. F. Landenberger, L. Liljidl, Sara Milikin, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane and Myra Willis.

DAVENPORT: Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr.

DES MOINES: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mrs. J. A. Downing, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Haskell, Mrs. J. M. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mooney, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Nicholson, Marcia and Mark Rouw, and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rouw.

DUBUQUE: Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley, Howard Higbey, Jr., Ival Schuster and Phyllis Shultz.

ESTHERVILLE: Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Osher and Mrs. B. O. Wolden

FORT DODGE: Susan Atwell

GUTHRIE CENTER: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Partridge

GILMORE CITY: Mrs. H. Van Alstine

GOLDFIELD: Dean Roosa

IOWA CITY: Mr. Everett Alton, Margrieta Delle, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Graeber and Max and Joel Graeber.

MARSHALLTOWN: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Britton, Dorothy Brunner, Jean Eige and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Prescott.

OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton

OTTUMWA: Judge and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Larry Deeds, Chad Eells, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Hallberg, Leona Haven and Pearle Walker.

PATON: Mr. and Mrs. Wiltse McWilliam.

SHELLROCK: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Pettijohn.

SHENANDOAH: Mr. and Mrs. W. C. DeLong and Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Zollars.

SIOUX CITY: Mrs. Helen Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvin Campell, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nickolson.

SPIRIT LAKE: Milbert Krohn and Mr. and Mrs. B. A. LaDoux.

WATERLOO: Mrs. John Bottleman, Dr. Myrle Burke, A. Camarata, Harriet Fairbanks and Rugh Holliday.

WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp

WINTHROP: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pierce

GOLETA, CALIFORNIA: Dr. Mary Roberts.

BENSON, MINNESOTA: Violet Nagle and Pauline Wershofen

MARSHALL, MINNESOTA: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kyllingstad.

WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA: Mrs. Orpha Barnes, Mrs. Helen Hatfield, Carrie Schafer and Mrs. Edith Soderholm

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA: Dr. and Mrs. Walter F. Breckenridge

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus

120 members were registered.

SUTTLE CREEK Boyhood Rambles

Along a Northeastern Iowa Stream

GLENN R. DOWNING

Box 215

Idaho State University

POCATELLO, IDAHO

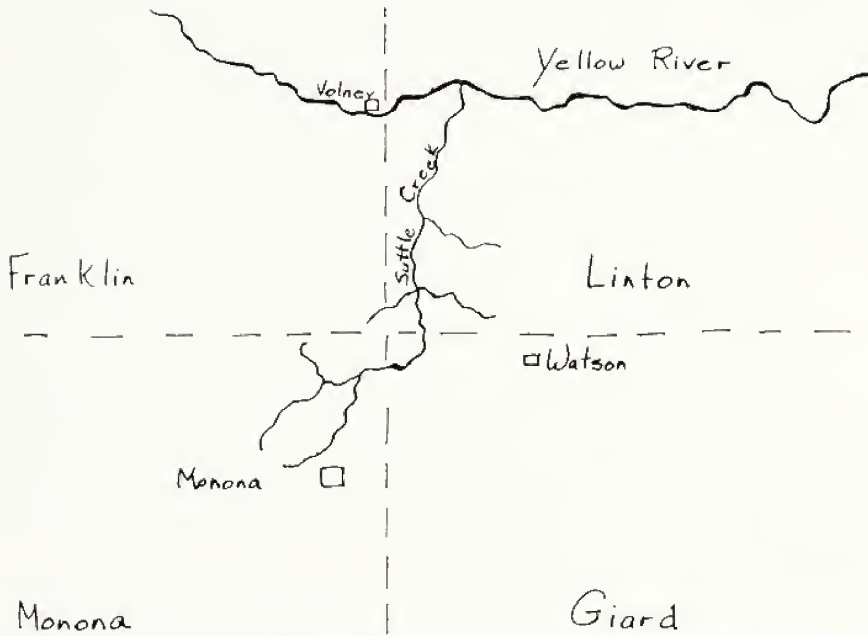
Sketches by ROSALIE CARL

There are many creeks in Iowa, but none that meant so much to me as the one just north of my boyhood home in Monona, Clayton County. Beyond town were rolling meadows, green in spring in the lower areas where the water ran from the hillsides watering the sparse willows growing there. A tiny brook trickled from the lower end of the adjacent fields which converged to a draw where the brook grew larger as it progressed into the open woods, filling with water from springs along its course. This was a part of the source of Suttle Creek. Another similar branch had its beginning just northwest of this, coming from the old Wellman pond. Joined together, these branches formed the main stream.

In most places Suttle Creek was narrow enough to permit one to easily jump across, but it filled rapidly downstream, growing to almost "river" proportions during warm days of March when water drained from the hillsides. Then the creek often became a torrent, and stepping across at such times was impossible.



Suttle Creek - sketch from a photograph taken in 1933



One late afternoon in March I had hiked near the dry creek-bed downstream, a considerable distance from the creek's source. No water had yet been carried down this far, and the creek-bed was dry from a near drought winter. In the distance I heard a faint roaring sound. It became louder, and, upon looking upstream to where the creek-bed made a long bend, I could see a wall of water coming at express-train speed! Water upstream had been feeding into the creek-bed all day from melting snow running from the hillsides and had now filled the drought dry creek to overflowing. Wending my way homeward was no easy task! I resorted to crossing the creek via the farmers' fences strung from bank to bank!

In addition to runoff, the amount of water pouring into such streams as Suttle Creek from springs alone is considerable. The water discharged from springs into the drainage system of the Turkey River, one of Clayton County's major streams, is estimated to be about eleven million gallons a day during times of average precipitation. When we multiply this by the many other rivers of the state, we begin to see the very great quantity of water from springs feeding the creeks, streams, and rivers of Iowa.

Many springs fed into Suttle Creek here and there along its course. As I remember, they began almost at the wood's edge, and continued all along downstream. As hikers, we had these springs pretty well marked out so that we could visit them easily. In one wooded ravine there was a series of seven of them, sparkling and bubbling from the hillside, all within a very short distance of each other. "Seven Springs" became the object of many of my hikes -- a sort of terminal point for a summer-time trek where I could cool off with a cold drink of spring water.

Instead of following the creek in its roundabout course, I hiked up over the hillside and then down a path to Seven Springs. The ravine spread out on the right, sloping upward, the creek and its springs next to the hillside. Away from the heavy foliage along the water, a number of thorn apple trees grew on this opposite slope --

a pleasant spot under which to sit and survey the ravine. It was a particularly pleasant place in the spring when the trees were in bloom. Here, too, the branches harbored such familiar birds as the Wood Pewee, a gray little flycatcher noticeable because of its pensive, rather sad, sweet call during the heat of the day when most other birds were silent.

Of the animals found near Suttle Creek, the red fox was frequently seen. I often climbed to the uplands to get a better view of the surrounding colors in fall, and also in hopes of seeing a fox. I was not disappointed, for occasionally one wandered leisurely along a fence row, oblivious to my presence above him, his red coat quite distinct when in green places; quite inconspicuous when against autumn browns and reds.

At times my friends and I camped overnight at Seven Springs. I recall one of these camping experiences which took place in early autumn. Warblers in confusing fall plumage filtered through the tree branches; goldenrod bloomed along pasture fence rows, and asters were showing here and there. Grasshoppers and katydids buzzed persistently along the creek, typical insect songs of late summer and early autumn. With the lowering of temperatures at night after a warm day, condensation was rapid, so that our camp became covered with dew in a short time, heavy enough that the foliage was wet as though with rain. The flow of the creek was a pleasant sound throughout the night -- and we were awake most of the night to hear it. Unfamiliar sounds such as a distant owl, farm animals pastured nearby, the stirring of insects -- all led to a sleepless night. This meant that we were up as the first light of dawn appeared in the eastern sky. Roosters were crowing from away off farmyards; mist in long streamers rose slowly along the creek; a Barred Owl hooted from the deeper woods; a sandpiper flew along the stream; and a Kingfisher rattled near us. Two Great Blue Herons lazily flew close to our camp in the misty streamers, golden from sunlight just hitting our camping spot. We spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon exploring the woods and nearby fields in the area, stopping long enough to fish the creek. We were quite aware that we would catch nothing but minnows, and these we let slip back to their cool cavern under the ledge of the grassy bank.

Had we hiked downstream we would have eventually come to the old Staudinger Mill, or at least what was left of it. Over the years there apparently were a number of different mills located on Suttle Creek. Ellery M. Hancock, in his book *Past and Present Allamakee County, Iowa* (published by S. J. Clarke Co., Chicago, Ill.), says:

Staudinger's Mill on Suttle Creek was running to its full capacity in 1868, in the west part of Linton township. In the spring and summer of 1872, Wm. Staudinger built a 40 x 50, two and a half story flouring mill on the west branch of Suttle Creek, a tributary of the Yellow River, about a mile further up than the old mill. This was on the route of the proposed narrow gauge railroad from Monona to Waukon then being surveyed. An old map published early in '59 shows a mill located on Suttle Creek, in section 30, known as Knabb's Mill. Also Newcomb's Mill situated on a creek in section 6, two miles north of the Yellow River. The Staudinger Mill is now used as a barn.

The historical background of Suttle Creek, other than this short account of the mills along its banks, remains a mystery.



The old Standinger Mill on Suttle Creek

IN MEMORIAM: ALBERT C. BERKOWITZ

Albert C. Berkowitz passed away on 27 March, 1969, after a two-months' illness. He was born in Philadelphia in 1902, and came to Des Moines in 1943 as president of the Tension Envelope Co. of Iowa after a long association with the then Berkowitz Envelope Co. in St. Louis.

Most of our members knew Albert as a birder, but many have also worked with him in the Boy Scouts of America. He was a past president of the Tall Corn Area Council, and served for 18 years on its Executive Council. He received not only the coveted Silver Beaver for work in the local area, but also the Silver Antelope for leadership and service at the district level. His association with scouting began as a teen-ager when he became a troop leader. His sympathy for the "underdog" showed itself even then when he chose to work with some of the most underprivileged boys in Philadelphia. I recall his telling me that on the occasion of one nature hike in the country, some of his boys said they had never seen a sunset.

Albert's interest in birding also began when he was in his teens, and he was self-taught. In discussing his early birding he mentioned the Black-and-white Warbler as the first species he was able to identify. A deep student and an amazingly keen observer, Albert's knowledge of the birds of this area was exceptional. He loved to help others and to share his knowledge of bird life, and for years he coached boys working for bird-study merit badges. Many birders, including the writer, received their introduction to bird study from him.

In addition to having served two years as president of the I. O. U. he was also a past president of the Des Moines Audubon Society. He was a past co-chairman of the board of trustees of the Iowa Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, served on the board for many years and in 1963 received the conference's distinguished service award. He was a past director of United Community Services and a past chairman of the All-in-one Campaign of the Jewish Welfare Federation. He was also a past president of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. He was a past president of the Des Moines Park Board.

Albert's unfailing good humor and friendliness, in addition to his love of the outdoors made him a delightful companion who will be greatly missed. -- Woodward H. Brown

FIELD REPORTS



The spring season was generally wet and the very cold March caused foliage to be late in coming out, but when a warm spell did arrive the trees and shrubs leafed out quickly. The rather late spring may be responsible for the scarcity of some species at the cutoff date for Field Reports.

A new wildlife area has been created by the Red Rock Dam on the Des Moines River which will make a permanent pool of 9,000 acres, and a flood control pool covering 65,500 acres, and extending 32 miles. The area may be reached via Pleasantville, Knoxville, Monroe, and Pella. During the migration it accommodated an estimated 20,000 geese and 500,000 ducks with all of the ducks on the Iowa list represented except the scoters and Cinnamon Teal (GB).

As is usually the case some areas fared better than others as far as the number of observations was concerned. Where waves of migrants were noticed they were spread between 3 and 21 May. Opinions varied from "A great wave of perching birds on 3 May" (LH), to "Generally late but rather regular" (JF), and, "Overall, quite poor" (Jim K), and "Poorest in 10 years, waterfowl especially disappointing with 5-10 percent of the usual ducks" (RM). The outstanding finds of the season were the Cattle Egret observed by John Faaborg, and the Western Tanager seen by Mrs. Crocker (see longer note).

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons. The only loon mentioned was seen on 10 April (KV, LH, RH). One Red-necked Grebe was at Little Wall Lake on 6 May (JF). Horned and Eared Grebes were scarce. Pelicans were seen: 20 on 23 March (KV, LH, RH), a number at Swan Lake (FK) and Little Wall on 12 April (RM), with a small flock at Okoboji. A flock of 75 Cormorants was sighted on 10 April (KV, LH, RH), and "a number" at Red Rock (GB). There was a good breeding population of the three common species of herons across from Credit Island on 15 May (LB). Great Blues were seen: 18 on 1 April (DG); 7 at Easter Lake in Polk Co. on 5 April (DM); 7 in Des Moines on 21 April (MB); and good numbers on the 4-5 April weekend (RM). The Cattle Egret observed and photographed at Dunbar Slough on 11 May by John Faaborg appears to be the fifth Iowa record. The only Common Egret reported was seen in Polk Co. on 28 April (DM). There were numerous reports of American and Least Bitterns (FK, RH, MB, MEW).

Geese, Ducks. Geese arrived at DeSoto Bend early in March, but upon finding it frozen went back to Squaw Creek, returning later (DH). There were no geese or ducks until 18 March, and most left by the 27th (FK). There was a good migration of geese, most of which were Canadas, and ducks (Jim K). There were a surprisingly large number of Pintails in early April (GB). A concentration of divers near Dunbar Slough on 22 March included 40-50 Goldeneyes and 70 Canvasbacks (JF). Other reports of the latter were 1 on 30 March (KV, RH) and 5 on 6 March (LH). Cinnamon Teal were seen on 4 April (RZ) and 20 April (JKB). Buffleheads were more numerous than usual (FK, PCP, WHB). A Surf Scoter was observed south of Webster City on 30 April (RM). Ruddy Ducks were thought unusually numerous (MK), and Common Mergansers also (LH, RH).

Hawks. Red-tailed and Broad-winged were the most frequently seen, but never

in numbers (Jim K), and hawks were thought scarce with only a few Red-tailed and a dozen Broad-winged seen between 20 and 26 April (FK). From 1-3 Turkey Vultures were seen daily for weeks with a high of 11 on 21 April (GB). On 11 April an immature Goshawk was watched eating a Meadowlark on the Gillaspeys' Lawn. One pair of Red-tailed were the only ones seen (GB). They were very few in the migration period (DG), but were thought plentiful (KL). On 26 March, 2 of the rapidly decreasing Red-shouldered were observed (LH). More than 30 Broad-winged were flushed from a roost on 30 April (MS), with others seen (FL, RH, WHB). At least 15 Swainson's were seen on 20 April (EB), and they are again present in northwest Scott Co. and apparently nesting (LB). An immature Golden Eagle was seen on 13 February (GE), and another by Chas. Ayres (no date). Bald Eagles were reported, with a high of 7 (GB); 3 on 27 March and 1 on 30 March (KV, RH); a mature in Des Moines on 16 March (J Kern); and another on 22 March (JF, BB). Marsh Hawks were thought more than usual (EB), and 4 were seen on 30 March (KV, RH). Ospreys were observed 19 and 27 April (RH) and 10 May (DM, J Kern). A Peregrine was watched while eating a duck at Readlyn Ponds on 19 April (LH), with another seen at Dunbar Slough on 11 May (JF). A Pigeon Hawk was seen on 11 May (RM). Sparrow Hawk reports varied from: plentiful (KL); good early migration (RM); several reports of good numbers (DH); to few, and not in usual nesting areas (GB); seem to be down (PCP); and only 1 or 2 all spring (FK).

Bobwhites, Pheasants. Bobwhites are not as plentiful, due probably to winter kill, and Pheasants not like last year (GB). Keenan thought Pheasants plentiful, and a good many were seen between Des Moines and Okoboji (WHB).

Rails, Plovers, Sandpipers. Shorebirds were almost lacking despite the presence of good areas (FK), and scarce (PCP). Coots were numerous, but others scarce (Jim K, FK, WHB). Killdeer were fewer (LH). Golden Plovers appeared in several areas with an estimated 1,600 in one field near Crane Creek, another flock of 130, and numerous smaller flocks seen during the migration (LH). A flock of 8 was seen on 14 May (FK), and a similar number in Polk Co. on 12 May (MB). Two flocks of 100 or more were reported (RH), and several sightings occurred in the Okoboji area just prior to the meeting. A flock of 8 Black-bellied Plover was at Sweet's Marsh on 12 May (RH). Woodcock reported were: at least 3 near Ames in late April, and 1 on 4 May (JF); 1 on 6 April at Lake Ahquabi (DM); and they were seen for several weeks after 30 March (PCP). Only 2 Snipe were seen all season (RZ and FK). A concentration of 20 Solitary Sandpipers on 20 April was unusual (LB). On 26 April 8 Willets were seen (RM). An early White-rumped Sandpiper appeared on 19 April (KV, GE, RH). A flock of 50 Baird's was in Des Moines Waterworks Park 23 May (MB, WHB). A Stilt Sandpiper at Easter Lake on 22 April was early (MB). A Marbled Godwit was at Union Slough on 18 May (KV fide RH). Three Hudsonian Godwits were seen near Shenandoah (RZ). Another early species date was 4 May when 2 Sanderlings were seen (GE). A Northern Phalarope was seen on 18 May (RH).

Gulls, Terns. Herring Gulls were numerous at Red Rocks Refuge (GB). An estimated 1,000 Ring-billed were seen 30 April (FK). These were unusually numerous at Des Moines also. Franklin's Gulls were seen: 7 April (WHB); 10 April (FK and DM, J Kern, also RZ), and 15 April (FK). A Bonaparte's Gull was identified on 19 April (RH). A flock of 50 Forester's Terns was at Dunbar Slough on 11 May (JF), and more than 50 were observed 15 April (PCP). Little Wall Lake had 15 Caspian Terns on 10 May (RM). Black Terns were thought few (RM), but were in good numbers on 10 May (PCP).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls. Doves are down (KL). Cuckoos are either very scarce or very late (DH, KL, WHB). The first Burrowing Owl reported from Akron in several years was seen 19 April (EB).

Goatsuckers, etc. Woodpeckers. No Nighthawks have been seen (PK). The call of the Chuck-will's-widow has been recorded (CA). Swifts were thick (KL). Few Hummingbirds have been seen except for a flock of 6 on 18 May (RM). Flickers are numerous, but still fewer than last year (MK), with a good migration at Des Moines. A Red-shafted Flicker has been watched for some time (EG). Red-bellied Woodpeckers have been scarce (KL). Red-headed: lots (KL); more than several years ago (DG); but scarce (MK, LH). A total of 14 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was seen on 10 April (KV, LH, RH), and there are as many this year as in the previous 5 (RM).

Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows. A Western Kingbird was seen 14 May (DG), one was at Vacation Village during the meeting, and another was seen in Scott Co. May 23 and 26 (LCB). Only 3 pairs of Say's Phoebes have been found (EB). Horned Larks are in good numbers (KL). Swallows were seen in huge numbers in early May with the first Tree Swallow on the early date of 23 March (FK), and there were mixed flocks of about 5,000 on two weekends in May with few Tree and many Cliff Swallows (RM).

Wrens, Mimics, Thrushes. Winter Wrens were seen at Clinton on 19 April (FL), and 2 were found on 27 April (RH). Also at Clinton were 4 Carolina Wrens (FL). Another has been at Hamburg for some months (EG). There are 2 pairs of Mockingbirds present (GB). Catbirds are numerous (KL), but thought few (DH). Brown Thrashers: thick (GB), and lots (KL). Robins are very plentiful (KL, WHB). Swainson's Thrushes: numerous (Jim K); many (RH); but, few (MK). Gray-cheeked Thrushes: numerous (Jim K, MK). There were two good waves of both at Des Moines, but they were thought following a two or three-year trend and fewer (DH). Three of the usually uncommon Veeries were seen on 12 May (MB, WHB); Mrs. DeLong banded 3 (RZ), and they were still present on 25 May (PCP). The Bluebird population is low (GB), but thought good (KL).

Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed few with Ruby-crowned rather plentiful (MK, WHB), but only half the usual number of Ruby-crowned were banded (PCP). Water Pipits are reported: 5 on 22 March (LH); 3 on 27 April (MEW); and 1 on 3 May (Jim K). Two Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Jefferson on 4 March (JF). A Northern Shrike was banded on 6 December, and another was seen on 29 January, both just over the state line in Missouri (FD). Loggerhead Shrikes were very scarce (FK, EB, RM), but started 5 nests (GB).

Vireos, Warblers. Vireos were generally thought fewer. White-eyed Vireos were seen: 5 May (FK); 10 May (GC); 18 May at Okoboji (JF, PCP); and 1 was banded 23 May (PCP). A Philadelphia Vireo was seen and heard on 25 May (MEW) and 6 were banded (PCP). Some comments on the warblers: good waves occurred on 3 and 10 May (PCP); 3 and 9 May (JF); and 3 May (LH). As good as most any year (RM); smaller numbers, but good variety (FK); not spectacular (GB); few warblers (Jim K); no good wave (PK); particularly disappointing (MK). There had been no numbers seen until 19 May when a great wave occurred at Hottes, Sunken and Prairie Lakes, and another at Sioux City on the 26th following a thunderstorm (DH). Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and Nashville were plentiful (KL). Several Golden-winged were seen at Ledges State Park and Ames (JF); with 1 at Des Moines (MB). Yellow Warblers were in better numbers than in the past few years (PCP). Myrtles were generally fewer, but 80-100 were seen on 27

April (RH), with a good late movement (PCP). A total of 8 Black-throated Green were seen on 10 May (RH). Blackpolls have been in unprecedented numbers (DH, RH). Thirty Palm Warblers were in one field on 27 April (RH). Northern Waterthrushes were more than usual (KL). A Connecticut was seen on 10 May (KV lide RH). The first Redstart in several years in Sioux City (DH), and good numbers in Des Moines.

Icterids, Tanagers, Finches, Bobolinks are common (Jim K), with many in Polk Co., but small numbers (RM). Fifteen Yellow-headed Blackbirds in his area was unusual (Jim K). Baltimore Orioles are in good numbers (GB, RH, WHB), but only a few (DH). The only mention of the Rusty Blackbird is of 1 seen on 4 March (KV lide RH). Several flocks of Brewer's Blackbirds were noted near Farragut this spring (RZ). Grackles continue to increase. There are 2 pairs of Summer Tanagers coming to a feeder in Des Moines (CG). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are numerous, but Indigo Buntings seem down (GB, WHB). Dickcissels, a high population (GB,PK). Evening Grosbeaks wintering in a number of areas stayed rather late: until 19 April (JF); 20 April (FK); and 2 May (HJ, DR). A rather late Purple Finch was seen on 11 May (RH). Some Common Redpolls, of which 400 were present on 14 January, were seen at intervals until 14 March (DG). Pine Siskins were still at Ames on 12 May (JF) and at Des Moines on the 13th (MB). A small flock of Red Crossbills was seen on 16 March (WmB). Harris' and White-crowned Sparrows were seen in numbers on 11 and 13 May (JF), while one of the former wintered (FO). Longspurs were very abundant and peaked at several thousand at Jefferson (JF), and Hays counted 150 on 4 March. Snow Buntings were seen in numbers in February and March (JF, Jim K, EB).

Contributors: Chas. Ayres, Jr., Ottumwa; Bob Bergman, Ames; Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Lewis Blevins, Davenport; Wm. Boller, Des Moines; Eldon Bryant, Akron; Mrs. Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Joe K. Brown, Des Moines; George Crossley, Dubuque; Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg; Mrs. Grace Ehlers, Maquoketa; John Faaborg, Jefferson and Ames; Mrs. Edw. Getscher, Hamburg; J. Donald Gillaspay, Lamoni; Mrs. Catherine Griffith, Des Moines; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt, Jessup; Mrs. Helen Johnson, Carlisle; Millard Keeler, Mason City; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Jeffrey Kern, Des Moines; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Fred Leshner, La Crosse, Wisc.; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Mrs. Fred Oetken, Northwood; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Mrs. Dale Reynolds, Des Moines; Myron Swenson, Ames; Mrs. K. A. Velie, Cedar Falls; Mary Ellen Warters, Des Moines; Mrs. Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah. **WOODWARD H. BROWN**, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

GENERAL NOTES



When You Set Your Trap!--The telephone rang just as I entered the back door, Sunday, October 6, 1968. It had been a beautiful, quiet afternoon with practically no wind, a perfect afternoon for banding birds. As I took down the receiver a voice said, "I just netted a bird I've never seen before. It is gray, the size of a Mockingbird. In fact I thought it was a Mockingbird because the lateral edges of



Townsend Solitaire
Photo by Fitzhugh Diggs

its tail are white. But this bird is not a Mockingbird!"

Betty Walters went on to say, "The only bird I can find in the bird book, *Birds of North America*, by Robbins and Zim, is the Townsend Solitaire, the bird you had nesting behind your cabin in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado." Betty brought the bird to my place and in a short time we had a gathering of the bird clan at the De Long residence. A long distance call to Hamburg brought Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs with their camera to photograph the solitaire. Mrs. Jean Braley and her mother Mrs. Bordner stopped by. Mrs. Ruth Zollars left a bridge game, without the hostess knowing why, to have her first view of a Townsend Solitaire.

There are several winter records in *Iowa Bird Life* for the state of Iowa, but perhaps this is the first banding record for Iowa for the Townsend Solitaire. Mrs. Walters, a teacher in the Shenandoah High School, lives ten miles north of Shenandoah on her father's farm. South of the farm there is a drainage ditch bordered by many trees, bushes and shrubs. At the bottom of the ditch, which in places becomes deep, there is a stream, fed by springs so that in winter one can always find running water. Small cedar trees grow at the bottom of this ditch and dogwoods grow abundantly. Wild grapes inter-twine among the branches of the larger trees. We could tell that the solitaire had been eating berries of the elderberry bushes that grow in the ditch.

In winter Harris' Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows congregate in this ditch for shelter and food, but when snow covers the ground they come to the feeders around the house. Mrs. Walters has had some interesting returns on the Harris' Sparrows.

One morning in May, 1968, very early in the morning before leaving for school, she noticed a brown sparrow-like bird eating seeds at her feeder. A day or so later the strange bird was joined by a blue male Indigo Bunting. Now there was no doubt of the identity of the unusual sparrow. She had a pair of Indigo Buntings eating at a feeder! Even though Mrs. Walters is a busy teacher, she manages to

find time to do some bird banding on weekends and during the summer when she is not in summer school. The ditch has produced some unusual banding records for this part of the state, such as the Common Redpoll on November 20, 1965; Pine Siskins on April 23, 1966; a Clay-colored Sparrow on May 2, 1969; and the western race or form of the Rufous-sided Towhee on October 19, 1968. But the most exciting record, of course, has been the Townsend Solitaire. One never knows, as Betty says, what you will get when you set your trap!--MRS. W. C. De LONG, 1206 Johnson Dr., Shenandoah.

The Black-headed Grosbeak in Western Iowa-- In *Iowa Bird Life* for December, 1961, page 74, there is an article, "A Challenge to Iowa Bird Spotters" by the late William Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa. In this article he gave a list of the rare birds one might be able to observe in Iowa. His comment about the Black-headed Grosbeak reads:

"The Black-headed Grosbeak should not be forgotten when looking for rare birds in Iowa, for it has been found nesting in northeast (sic) Missouri and also in north-central Kansas. The writer has found this grosbeak nesting in Yankton, South Dakota, which is not far from the Iowa border."

It was on October 30, 1968, that I was walking in the Manti Woods, five miles southwest of Shenandoah, Iowa. A bird that I thought at first was a Fox Sparrow flew into a gooseberry bush, but when my binoculars brought the bird into view, I was astounded at what I saw. It had a grosbeak bill, a black head with cinnamon around its neck, on its breast, sides and flanks. There was much white in its wings and patches of white in the tail. This bird was no Fox Sparrow!

"What are you doing here in Iowa, you Black-headed Grosbeak!" I exclaimed. For a long time he perched in this bush for me to observe. It brought back memories of the many Black-headed Grosbeaks I banded in Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado. As I stood there studying his plumage, I thought of our grosbeak, Scenic Bird as we called him, how he would come every morning and take up his favorite perch in a ponderosa pine tree by my mountain cabin in the park and pour forth his succession of rich and clear whistling notes with trills and then close with a few rought notes. I recalled the nest of Scenic Bird I found in a mountain birch that bordered the stram north of my cabin. Banded in 1958 he came back every summer to my feeding station until the summer of 1965. I was alone that October afternoon in the Manti Woods. My only regret was that my bird companion, Mrs. Ruth Zollars, was not there to share the experience with me.--MRS. W. C. DeLONG, 1206 Johnson Drive, Shenandoah.

Fall and Winter Visitors at Storm Lake-- On October 27 and 28, a female Evening Grosbeak was at a feeder in our backyard eating sunflower seeds. On each of these two days, she visited the feeder several times, driving away the sparrows and other would-be rivals for the food.

On October 30 I had a special thrill. Four or five Red-breasted Nuthatches were around carrying off sunflower seeds. They seemed so reluctant to leave even while I was filling the feeders that I decided to see whether any would feed from my hand, and held it near the feeder. One of the birds immediately lit on the feeder, and reached over to take a seed from my hand. The next trip, he perched on my fingers, and selected a seed. Time after time, he repeated the performance. A female flew off in alarm when she saw me near the feeder, and refused to come while I was there. The same trusting nuthatch (or perhaps another) also came to my husband's hand for seeds. After the first heavy snow, the Red-breasted Nuthatches disappeared from our yard.

Friday the thirteenth of December was a very lucky day for me. Mrs. Bess

Strawn, a friend who lives on a wooded four acres near the edge of Storm Lake, telephoned to say a Varied Thrush was in her back yard feeding on the frozen fruit of a Manchurian crabapple tree. My husband I lost no time getting to Mrs. Strawn's house. Of course the bird had disappeared by the time we arrived, but it did appear later long enough for us to verify the identification. We had Peterson's **Field Guide to Western Birds**, Pearson's **Birds of America**, and the National Geographic Society's **Song and Garden Birds of North America** for reference. Mrs. Phil Thornton has since also identified the bird. After a seven inch snowfall, we were all afraid the bird was gone. However, on Dec. 19, Mrs. Strawn saw it again. Ed and I arrived at her house at 12:50 P.M. and started our watch. Ed set up a camera with telephoto lens in the dining room window. I watched from the nearby kitchen window. At 4:05, the Varied Thrush appeared, and stayed in the crabapple tree a short time. At 4:26, he flew up in the top of a tall Loblolly pine. We did not see him leave, so we think he probably spent the night there. The bird has been seen several times since, and when snow covered all the fallen fruit, he ate at a feeding station on the ground where Mrs. Strawn had put popped corn with vegetable oil drizzled on it. Unfortunately, the color slides did not turn out well, but perhaps my husband can still get some good pictures if the rare visitor will cooperate. -- VIRGINIA R. CROCKER (MRS. EDWIN G.), 720 E. First St., Storm Lake.

Iowa's First Western Tanager -- On May 8 at 10 A. M. C.D.T. another rare visitor was spotted in the Storm Lake vicinity -- a male WESTERN TANAGER. For the past twelve years during the warbler migration, Mrs. Phil Thornton and I have planned to spend as many May mornings as possible observing the warblers. Supplied with bird books, binoculars, a thermos of coffee and sweet rolls, we drive to what is known locally as West Park. We park the car where we can look into some of the shrub borders near the lake, and sit quietly in the car to observe. West Park is a state-owned 13 acre strip of land between Storm Lake and Little Storm Lake on the west side of Iowa 110. It is an open wooded blue grass tract with borders of woody shrubs and scattered trees. Borders contain gooseberry bushes and wild roses. Tree species include Choke Cherry, Wild Plum, Ash, Slippery Elm, Box Elder, Cottonwood and Mulberry. Trees are of various ages and sizes up to 50 ft. in height. Some spruce trees were planted in the area about 7 years ago. Within the area are short unpaved trails used by cars and pedestrians.

The morning of May 8 was a beautiful clear day after light showers the day before. Temperature was in the fifties. Many insects were flying, and we were watching the large number of Myrtle Warblers feeding on the insects when Ruth exclaimed, "What is that bird with the bright red head?--I've never seen one like it before." Then the bird came into full view. The brilliant colors were breath-taking, and we had little trouble identifying it as a male Western Tanager. The red on the face extended over the top of the head. The wings and back were black and the body yellow. The yellow wing bars were very prominent. It came to about 20 ft. from the car, and we had several good looks at it with and without binoculars. The bird worked in the shrub borders about 8 ft. off the ground, and we saw him catching insects. Once he flew out much like a flycatcher to catch an insect. Edward Forbush mentions that the Western Tanager is expert in catching insects both in trees and on the wing, and that the bird pursues them through the air in the manner of a flycatcher. One border where we saw the Tanager flanks little Storm Lake, and runs the full length of the strip of land. There are intermittent thickets along this border. On the opposite or highway side where we observed him when he flew across one of the auto trails in the park is a similar border which extends only a short distance along the highway. We could not see where he went when he finally

disappeared from view. My husband and I have returned to the same place several times, but we have not seen him again. I can only hope he will someday appear to some other birder who will be as thrilled at his beauty and rarity as we were. Incidentally, I have a small collection of Spode china bird figurines. The only western bird in the collection happens to be a Western Tanager. Now, that figurine will mean more to me than it ever did. --MRS. EDWIN G. CROCKER, 720 E. 1st. St., Storm Lake.

Notes on the Summer Birds of Boone County -- Iowa is known for its corn fields and wide open spaces, but along its major rivers large areas of woodland can be found that provide excellent birding areas. One of the more interesting of these areas is the Des Moines River valley in Boone County. There the prairie is interrupted by large, wooded bluffs and bottomlands. With the wooded ravines that finger out into the prairie, large areas of woodland habitat can be found. The ideal example of this is Ledges State Park south of Boone. The woods of this park and the surrounding area have provided me with numerous hours of pleasure and many interesting observations of birds.

Perhaps the most characteristic bird in the park is the Turkey Vulture. These birds can be seen continually soaring above the park and as many as thirty have been seen on one of their roosts in the park. Although no nests have been found in recent years, it is believed that the birds nest on some of the remote cliffs along the Des Moines River and streams of the area. The Broad-winged Hawk has been observed nesting in the park and the dense undergrowth serves as ideal habitat for a number of Whip-poor-wills. Although I never could find a nest, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen all summer and were believed nesting.

Also of interest in the park is the large number of nesting warblers and vireos. The three species of vireo and seven species of warbler that nest include Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, and American Redstart. The Blue-winged Warbler was known to be nesting in two locations and in one section of the park five singing Cerulean Warblers were observed during the summer. Bill Jackson had the pleasure of observing this latter species building a nest. The seventh nesting species of warbler was the Louisiana Waterthrush, which was observed nesting on a nearly vertical slope next to a creek in the park. Surprisingly, the most exciting nesting species that I found was not in Ledges Park, but in McHose Park at the south edge of Boone. There in late June of 1968 I observed a Brown Creeper feeding a fledgling bird. The young bird could fly, but it obviously had been raised in the area. Although many possible nesting records of the Brown Creeper exist, positive records of its nesting are few and far between in the state.

Also inhabiting the densest areas are Wood Thrush and Veery. The latter was a questionable nester in the state, but evidence, including one nest found by Jim Rod and myself, pointed to at least five pair of Veery nesting in the park. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed until mid-June last summer when they apparently left. Although no nesting activity was observed, a male was seen in the same spot this spring and the species could easily be nesting in the area.

As you can see, the Des Moines River valley in Boone County is an area with proluse and interesting bird life. In two years I have observed sixty-seven species that were known or believed to be nesting in the park itself. Another fifteen species can be found in the vicinity for a total of eighty-two nesting species in relatively small area. Of course, the area is also excellent for migrating species and is a birder's heaven at any time of the year. And the scenery is such that a trip to the area is worthwhile regardless of what birds are seen. -- JOHN FAABORG, 705 W. Madison, Jefferson.

One Day Eagle Count, February 15 or 16, 1969 -- Again, most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis as well as most of the Illinois River was covered. The area from Lock & Dam 12 at Bellevue, Iowa to Warsaw, Ill., was covered both by plane and car. A detailed, careful comparison was made. Special thanks go to the following: Peter Petersen, Jr., John Faaborg & Dr. DeDcker who made the flight, Dr. L. H. Princen who handled the Illinois River and to the St. Louis Audubon Society who again had a large turn-out. Also to the Kentucky Ornithological Society who experienced a severe sleet and snowstorm on the count dates.

Location	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Total	Golden Eagles
Pools 4 and 5	46	5	0	51	
Pools 7 and 8	4	0	0	4	
Pool 9	8	0	0	8	
Cassville Area	52	7	0	59	
Sub-total	110 (90%)	12 (10%)	0	122	
Savanna Ordinance Depot & Bellevue	23	7	0	30	
Clinton, Iowa	1	0	0	1	
Wapsi River, Cordova	18	1	0	19	
Lock 14 & Port Byron	12	0	0	12	
Credit Island & Davenport	10	6	0	16	
Muscatine & Lock 16	12	5	0	17	
Lock 17 to Keithsburg	78	6	0	71	1
Oquawka to Lomas	32	11	0	43	
Dallas City to Warsaw	33	17	0	50	
Sub-total	219 (81%)	53 (19%)	0	272	
Quincy Bay	21	25	0	46	
Lock 22 to Lock 25	79	81	0	160	
Lock 25 (not seen by above count)	10	21	0	31	
Fort Chartress State Park	1	0	0	1	
Sub-total	111 (47%)	127 (53%)	0	238	
Mississippi River					
Grand Total	440 (70%)	192 (30%)	0	632	1
Illinois River	57 (45.6%)	68 (54.4%)	3	128	1
Grand total, both rivers	497 (65.65%)	260 (34.35%)	3	760	
Union County Refuge	4	8	0	12	2
Crab Orchard Refuge	0	5	0	5	1
Refuges total	4 (23.5%)	13 (76.5%)	0	17	
Kentucky	10 (34.5%)	19 (65.5%)	0	29	
Complete total and Complete percent	511 (63.6%)	292 (36.4%)	3	806	5
					all adults

Comment: The increase in immatures could be good, however caution must be used in comparison with other years. More severe weather along the Missouri River and else where caused a shift in location of many eagles. More immatures are usually found away from the Mississippi River. A total of nearly 300 people took part in this count. My thanks go to all of them.--ELTON FAWKS, Box 112, Route 1, East Moline, Illinois.

The Sherman Swift Tower -- It looks like nothing else in this world, this 12 foot square, 22 foot tall building, nestled in a small cottonwood grove, surrounded by neatly trimmed grass. Perhaps this is because there IS no other building in the

world like it. It is the Sherman Swift Tower, now located at Andy Mountain Campground, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Harper's Ferry, Iowa on Highway 364. The Tower was built in 1914, from a plan created by Miss Althea Sherman, Iowa's first woman ornithologist, who designed it for the purpose of studying the nesting habits of the Chimney Swift. Within its walls is a stairway ascending around a wooden chimney built into the top 14 feet of the structure. The chimney, also of wood, has cleverly concealed viewing "windows" through which the interior of the chimney can be viewed without the feathered occupants being aware of the viewer.

Miss Sherman, a retired art teacher who spent her teaching years in Washington State, lived at National, Iowa, a town all traces of which time has



erased, and for many years her gracious home was the gathering place for ornithologists from far corners. She and her sister, Dr. E. Amelia Sherman, were always willing to share their knowledge and encourage beginners in their small bird sanctuary, which surrounded their home, and which was the source of Miss Sherman's many erudite essays and books on various species. Perhaps the best known of her works is *Birds Of An Iowa Dooryard*.

Miss Sherman passed away in 1943, leaving her home, the tower and the bird sanctuary to the National, Iowa, Cemetery Association. As a result of this arrangement the beautiful home deteriorated with years of abuse, and finally was torn down and the land sold for a new home owner to build a modern home on, the wild shrubbery was bulldozed into broken piles and the tower stood alone awaiting the torch. Fortunately R. W. Daubendiek, owner of Andy Mountain Campground, "Iowa's Finest Park" and a member of the Society for the Preservation of Historical Landmarks in Iowa, had been alert to the razing of the home and entered into negotiations with the cemetery association to purchase the tower, which they had abandoned as worthless and they were therefore eager to dispose of the building.

In 1962 Mr. Daubendiek moved the tower about 40 miles north to his Park and placed it on a permanent foundation, replaced the broken windows, and repaired the roof. By the second summer, the Chimney Swifts had found the tower in its new location and were nesting there. Needless to say, the first nest built in the chimney that year created a great deal of interest at the park. The past three years successful nests have produced from 2 to 3 fledglings a season. The nest itself is a small, flat platform made of twigs, which appear to be "glued" to the interior wall of the chimney. The adult Swift sits on the nest with her head pointed up toward the top of the chimney and her tail braced against the wall below the nest. In 1968 five Swifts were observed entering and leaving the tower via the chimney top. They do not alight on the rim, but sweep above the opening and plummet directly down into the chimney.

Many people have visited the tower since it has been open to the public in 1964. It is only shown by Mr. Daubendiek who personally conducts interested persons through the tower. He has been hoping that with the help of the members of the Iowa Ornithologists Union memorabilia for this unique and historic building can be assembled to better educate future generations in ornithology. The Sherman Swift Tower has been designated as an Iowa Historical Landmark. -- MRS. MAE SLOAN DAUBENDIEK, 504 Center Ave., Decorah.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Alton, 909 Melrose Ave., Iowa City
Orpha Barnes, 609 Burlington, Worthington, Minn.
Bob Bergman, 1608 Beaver Ave., Des Moines
Mrs. L. Van Byers, 645 N. Court St., Ottumwa
Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Campbell, 109 W. Gilman Terrace, Sioux City
Raymond Cummins, 1208 E. Alexander St., Kirksville, Mo.
Mrs. George W. Franck, Rt. 3, Box 75, Red Oak
Miss Kathy Fisher, 1419 23rd St., Des

Moines
James Hampson, 704 3rd Ave., Mendota, Ill.
Mrs. Helen Hatlelid--reinstated, Box 173, Worthington, Minn.
James F. Landenberger, 3403 1st Ave. S. W., Cedar Rapids
Ella Parsons--reinstated, Sioux Rapids
Ira Sanders, 3126 W. Jarlath, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. P. C. Thornton--reinstated, 326 Ostego St., Storm Lake
Tim Wundrum (J), 534 River Dr., Bettendorf